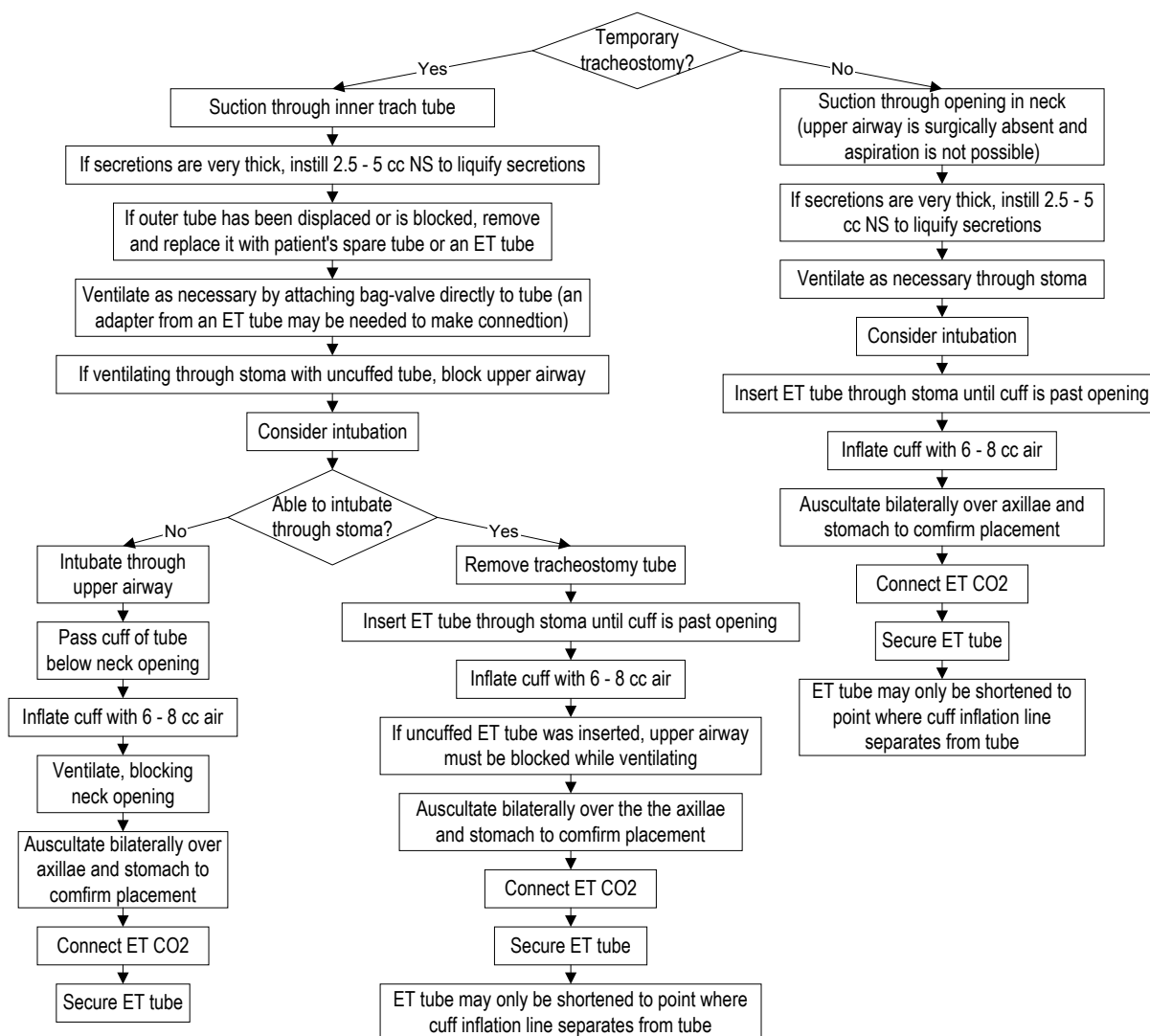


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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
PRACTICAL SKILL
TRACHEOSTOMY CARE**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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Purpose: To maintain a patent airway and adequate oxygenation of the patient with a temporary or permanent tracheostomy To remove or replace a tracheostomy tube		Indications: Patients with temporary or permanent tracheostomies obstructed by secretions Patients unable to replace tracheostomy tubes	
Advantages: Clears foreign material and liquid from the tracheostomy	Disadvantages: Removes air May introduce bacteria into the airway	Complications: Hypoxia Airway trauma	Contraindications: None



NOTES:

- A temporary tracheostomy bypasses the upper airway. A metal or plastic tube is inserted through the soft tissue of the anterior neck into the trachea and is held in place with ties circling the neck.
- Temporary tubes are rarely cuffed and aspiration is possible from above or from gastric contents.
- A permanent tracheostomy is created when the upper airway structures are surgically removed. A stoma is created in the anterior neck and the trachea surgically attached to the stoma.
- Suctioning removes air as well as secretions. Hyperventilate with oxygen after suctioning.